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**ORGAN MOUNTAIN RECREATION LANDS
BAYLOR PASS AND PINE TREE TRAILS
MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PLAN**

Las Cruces District Office

Bureau of Land Management

October 1975

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Denver Federal Center
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Foreword

The Pine Tree Trail and Baylor Pass Trail were established as a vital component of the Organ Mountain Recreation Land developments in June 1971.

Both trails were incorporated into the national system of recreational and scenic trails by the "National Trails System Act" (Public Law 90-543) of October 2, 1968.

This plan contains instructions for planning, locating, designing, and managing of both trails, as well as managing the lands influenced by them. The guide will be revised and modified as conditions change, and as more information becomes available.

Appendix

The Five Year Trail and Eight Year Trail were established as a vital component of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park development in

June 1971.

Both trails were incorporated into the national system of trails known as the "National Trails System Act" (Public

Law 90-247) of October 2, 1968.

This plan contains information for planning, financing, managing, and assessing of both trails. As well as assessing the land, followed by them. The plan will be revised and updated as conditions change, and as more information becomes available.

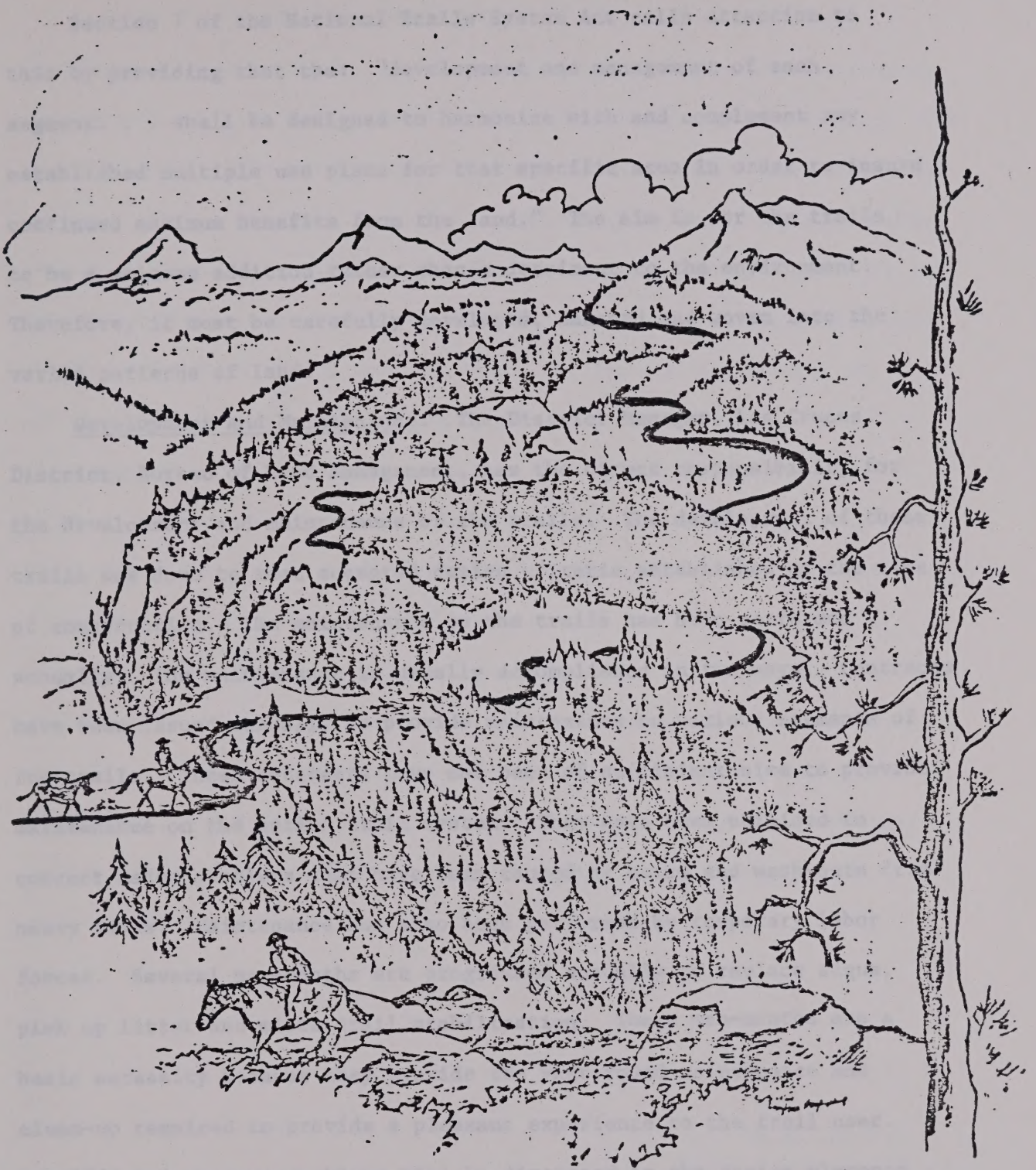
Introduction

History. The Organ Mountain Recreation Land was officially designated in May 1971. The recreation land contains 27,000 acres of BLM administered lands. The present developments within the recreation lands include: 35 family picnic units, east-side road (5.5 miles), west-side road (6 miles), San Augustine Wayside, Baylor Pass Trail (4.5 miles), Pine Tree Trail (4.05 miles), and the Soledad Ecology Garden.

The Baylor Pass Trail and Pine Tree Trail were constructed in the spring of 1971 and received their official designation as National Recreation Trails in June 1971.

Geographical Location. The Baylor Pass and Pine Tree Trails are located in the Organ Mountains. Located in south central New Mexico, the Organ Mountains are 20 miles east of Las Cruces, New Mexico and 50 miles north of El Paso, Texas.

Landscape Characteristics. The trails traverse land rich in natural resources such as wildlife, geology, timber, minerals, forage and open space. The lands vary from the Sonoran Life Zones at the base (Elevation 5,000) to the Canadian Life Zone (Elevation 9,000). The differing characteristics of these lands provide a broad range of outdoor experiences and educational opportunities. To plan, construct, and manage a trail facility through such a wide variety of topography and climate conditions, provides a real challenge.



Trail is located to harmonize with terrain.

Section 7 of the National Trails System Act calls attention to this by providing that the: "development and management of each segment. . . shall be designed to harmonize with and complement any established multiple use plans for that specific area in order to insure continued maximum benefits from the land." The aim is for the trails to be a welcome addition rather than a detriment to the environment. Therefore, it must be carefully developed, managed and woven into the varied patterns of land.

Development and Maintenance. The District Manager, Las Cruces District, Bureau of Land Management, has the direct responsibility for the development and maintenance of the trails. The development of these trails was done to meet accepted design criteria established at the time of construction. The maintenance on the trails has been performed annually. The maintenance is usually accomplished in two ways. Contracts have been issued annually to provide maintenance on various segments of the trails. These contracts have not been of sufficient size to provide maintenance on the entire trail system. They have been utilized to correct major problems that have been caused by users and wash-outs from heavy rains. Maintenance has also been performed by temporary labor forces. Several man-months are programmed annually to replace signs, pick up litter and minor trail stabilization. These man-months are a basic necessity because they provide the year-round maintenance and clean-up required to provide a pleasant experience to the trail user. Specific maintenance problems will be discussed in the design elements section of this report.

Section 7 of the National Trails System Act calls attention to

this by providing that the "development and management of such

segments . . . shall be designed to harmonize with and complement any

established multiple use plans for that specific area in order to insure

continued optimum benefits from the land." The aim is for the trails

to be a welcome addition rather than a detriment to the environment.

Therefore, it must be carefully developed, managed and seen into the

vision patterns of land.

Development and Maintenance. The District Manager, Los Angeles

District, Bureau of Land Management, has the direct responsibility for

the development and maintenance of the trails. The development of these

trails was done to meet selected design criteria specified in the plan

of construction. The maintenance on the trails has been performed

annually. The maintenance is usually completed in the winter. Contractors

have been hired annually to provide maintenance on various segments of

the trails. These contractors have not been of sufficient size to provide

maintenance on the entire trail system. They have been utilized to

correct major problems that have been caused by users and weathering from

heavy rains. Maintenance has also been performed by temporary labor

forces. Several contracts are programmed annually to replace signs,

clear up litter and other trail stabilizing work. These contracts are a

small percentage of the total that provide the permanent maintenance and

clear-up required to provide a pleasant experience in the trail user.

Specific maintenance problems will be discussed in the design elements

section of this report.

Since the trails were constructed in 1971, many maintenance problems and concepts have surfaced concerning the general conditioning of the trails. The various methods described in the above paragraph have been tried but have not reached the level of maintenance desired by this office. When a contract is used to perform maintenance, a considerable amount of time is required for survey, supervision and clerical. It is estimated that one or two man-months will be expended for a \$5,000 contract. This same \$5,000 contract would not perform maintenance on the entire trail system. As a result of our past experience, it is now felt that the job could better be done through the use of BLM work force. With an additional six man-months, two temporary employees could be assigned the job of trail maintenance. It is felt that this method would accomplish the majority of the required work upon the trails. Any additional visitation, trails, or foul weather would require more personnel to accomplish the desired level of maintenance upon the trails.

The majority of the supervision for the two temporary employees would come from full-time (WAE) personnel assigned to the Aguirre Springs recreation site with assistance from the Division of Operations for major maintenance needs.

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General Design and Maintenance Criteria

The design of the Pine Tree Trail and Baylor Pass Trail has been in keeping with the purpose of the trail. In general, it has been designed to produce a minimum disturbance to the natural environment and has considered the protection of the adjoining resources, the safety and enjoyment of the user, the volume and type of traffic, and the economics of construction and maintenance. The design has incorporated features that mitigate adverse impacts upon the environment, that result in a trail of high quality and permanence, and that are inexpensive to maintain. Trail heads have been designed to primarily provide visitor entry onto the trail. Size was determined by capacity of trail resources. They contain parking facilities, sanitation, horse-handling facilities and a map or bulletin board.

Specific Design Elements

Dimensions. Generally the trail tread will be 36 inches wide. The 36 inches will include the shoulders on either side of the trail. This will give the trail a usable tread of 24-28 inches. Along steep cliffs, or hazardous areas the trail should be 48 inches wide to provide safety to the traveler, and allow horses with riders enough clearance to pass through the area without difficulty. Special trail sections, such as fords through small streams or built-up sections across flat areas, should have a usable tread at least 36 inches wide. At switch-back landings, graded trails should be 8 feet wide. Switchbacks should be designed to minimize the amount of excavation and cut-bank exposure.

The specific details of the trail's dimensions are shown in "Typical Trail Sections" (See appendix).

Alignment. The ideal alignment will "fit" the trail to the ground, and afford the user the best view from the trail. The alignment should follow the contours of the land and be generally curvilinear. Sharp angular turns and long straight stretches should be avoided. If a switchback is necessary, it should be constructed as shown in "Details of Switchbacks" (see appendix). The most desirable alignment for a switchback utilizes a topographic feature as a turning point so that it does not appear to be "carved" out of the hillside. Provisions for screening and protecting the switchbacks with trees or brush should be incorporated in the design when it cannot be constructed around a natural topographic feature. The alignment should angle across the natural slope of the hillside, rather than take a route directly up or down the slope which would afford little opportunity to drain water away, and can cause severe erosion.

Grade. As a general rule, the trail should not be steeper than 15 percent (15-foot rise in 100 linear feet). Grades may exceed 15 percent if the steeper grade does not impair serviceability, safety, preservation, and trailside esthetics. No grade should be so steep that erosion is a problem. Long stretches of a given grade should be avoided. The grade should undulate gently to provide natural drainage and to eliminate monotonous level stretches and long steady grades that are tiring to the traveler. Grades should be lessened at approaches to switchbacks and the turns should be as nearly level as practicable. A loop trail, designed especially for hikers, may incorporate short sections of steps or steeper grades if these will not cause undue disturbance, and adequate drainage can be provided to prevent erosion.

The specific details of the road's construction are shown in

"Optimal Road Section" (see appendix).

Alignment. The ideal alignment will "fit" the road to the ground

and afford the user the best view from the road. The alignment should

follow the contour of the land and be generally consistent. Sharp

angular curves and long straight stretches should be avoided. It is

undesirable in emergency. It should be constructed as shown in "Roads

of Switzerland" (see appendix). The most desirable alignment for a

road should utilize a topographic feature as a curving point so that it

does not appear to be "forced" out of the hillside. Provisions for

drainage and protecting the embankment with trees or brush should be

incorporated in the design when it cannot be constructed around a natural

topographic feature. The alignment should angle across the natural slope

of the hillside, rather than take a route directly up or down the slope

which would afford little opportunity to drain water away, and the road

surface erodes.

Grade. As a general rule, the grade should not be steeper than 15

percent (15-foot rise in 100-foot run). Grades may exceed 15 percent

if the steep grade does not impair accessibility, safety, or traction,

and provides excellent. No grade should be so steep that erosion is a

problem. Long stretches of a given grade should be avoided. The grade

should undulate gently to provide natural drainage and to eliminate

unnecessary level stretches and long steady grades that are taxing to the

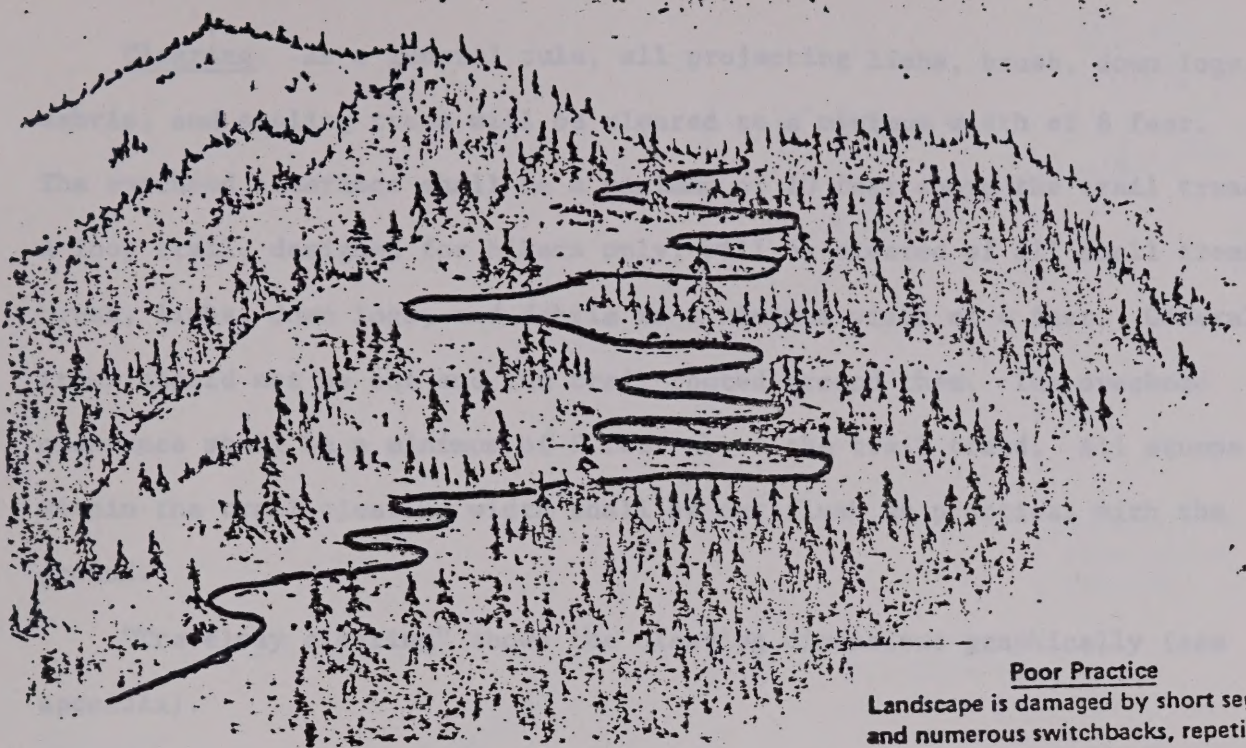
traveler. Grades should be limited to approaches to embankments and the

turns should be as nearly level as practicable. A long, straight, designed

especially for drivers, may introduce short segments of steep or steep

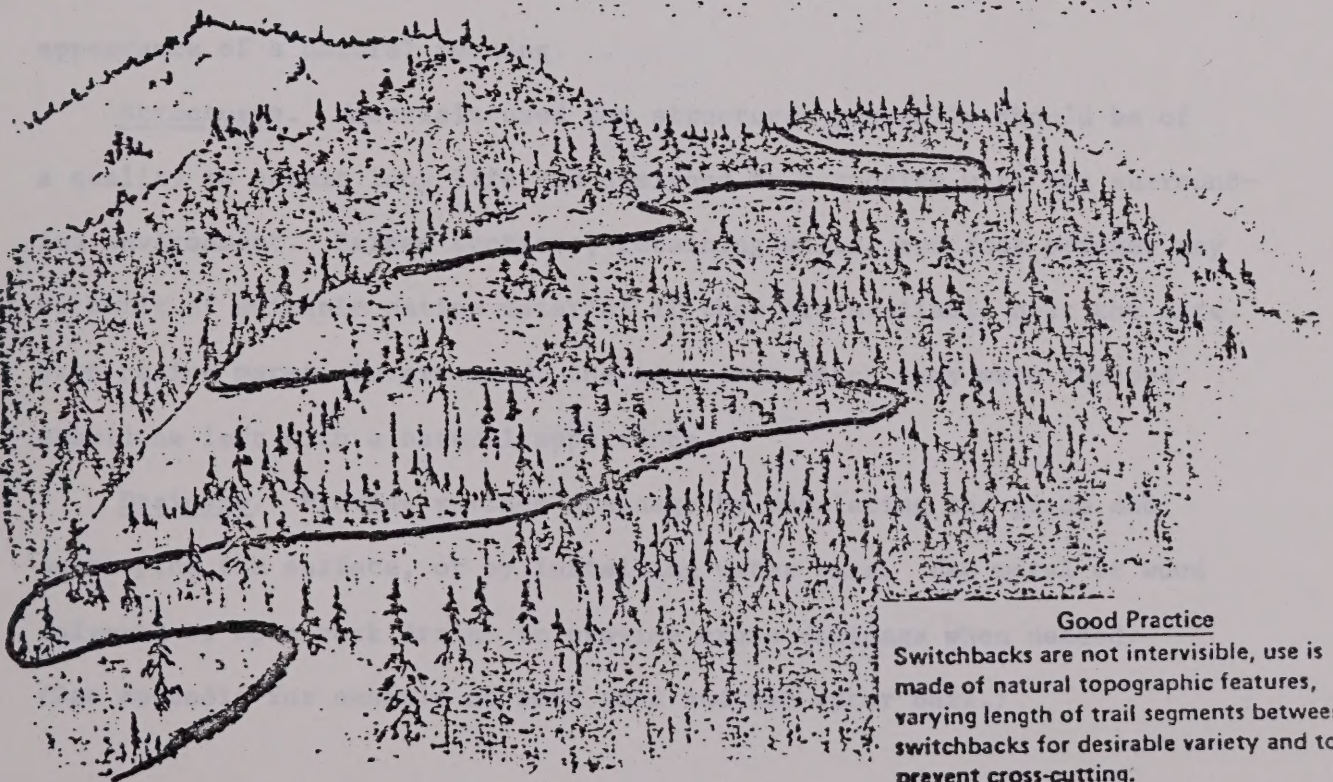
grades if these will not cause undue discomfort, and adequate drainage

can be provided to prevent erosion.



Poor Practice

Landscape is damaged by short segments and numerous switchbacks, repetition is monotonous to the user.



Good Practice

Switchbacks are not intervisible, use is made of natural topographic features, varying length of trail segments between switchbacks for desirable variety and to prevent cross-cutting.

Clearing. As a general rule, all projecting limbs, brush, down logs, debris, and sapling trees will be cleared to a minimum width of 8 feet. The overhead clearance shall be a minimum of 10 feet above the trail tread. A loop trail, designed for hikers only, will be cleared of all small trees, brush, limbs, down logs, and debris to a minimum width of 4 feet. Generally, trees should not be cut and the trail routed around them. The overhead clearance shall be a minimum of 8 feet above the trail tread. All stumps within the trail clearing width shall be cut flush as practical with the ground.

"Travelway clearing" shows the clearing dimensions graphically (see appendix).

Clearings beyond that necessary for adequate room along the trail may be desirable to provide openings so that the hiker can enjoy a particular scene. These clearings should be planned to give the appearance of a natural opening.

Structures. Materials used for structures generally should be of a quality to permit long life and designed to harmonize with the surrounding environment. Raised sections, retaining walls, and foot bridges may be built of suitable native material if they are available near the site. When native materials are used, the site from which they were removed should be left with a natural appearance.

Drainage. Provide surface drainage by undulating the grade and outsloping the surface, or by installing water bars. Use metal or wood culverts or open rock drains to provide cross drainage when needed. (See appendix for example of both good and bad water bars.)

Clearing for a general rule, all grubbing, stumps, brush, down logs,

brush, and sapling trees will be cleared to a minimum width of 8 feet.

The overhead clearance shall be a minimum of 10 feet above the trail grade.

A low trail, designed for horses only, will be cleared of all small trees,

brush, stumps, down logs, and debris to a minimum width of 4 feet. Sufficiently,

trails should not be cut and the trail posted around them. The overhead

clearance shall be a minimum of 8 feet above the trail grade. All stumps

within the trail clearing shall be cut down to a minimum of 4 feet

ground.

"Temporary Clearing" shows the clearing dimensions graphically (see

Appendix).

Clearing begins that necessary for adequate room along the trail.

It may be desirable to provide openings so that the rider can enjoy a

particular scene. These clearings should be planned to give the

appearance of a natural opening.

Structures. Structures and the structures generally should be of

a quality to provide long life and designed to harmonize with the surrounding

environment. Fences, gates, retaining walls, and foot bridges may

be built of suitable native material if they are available near the site.

When such materials are used, the site from which they were removed

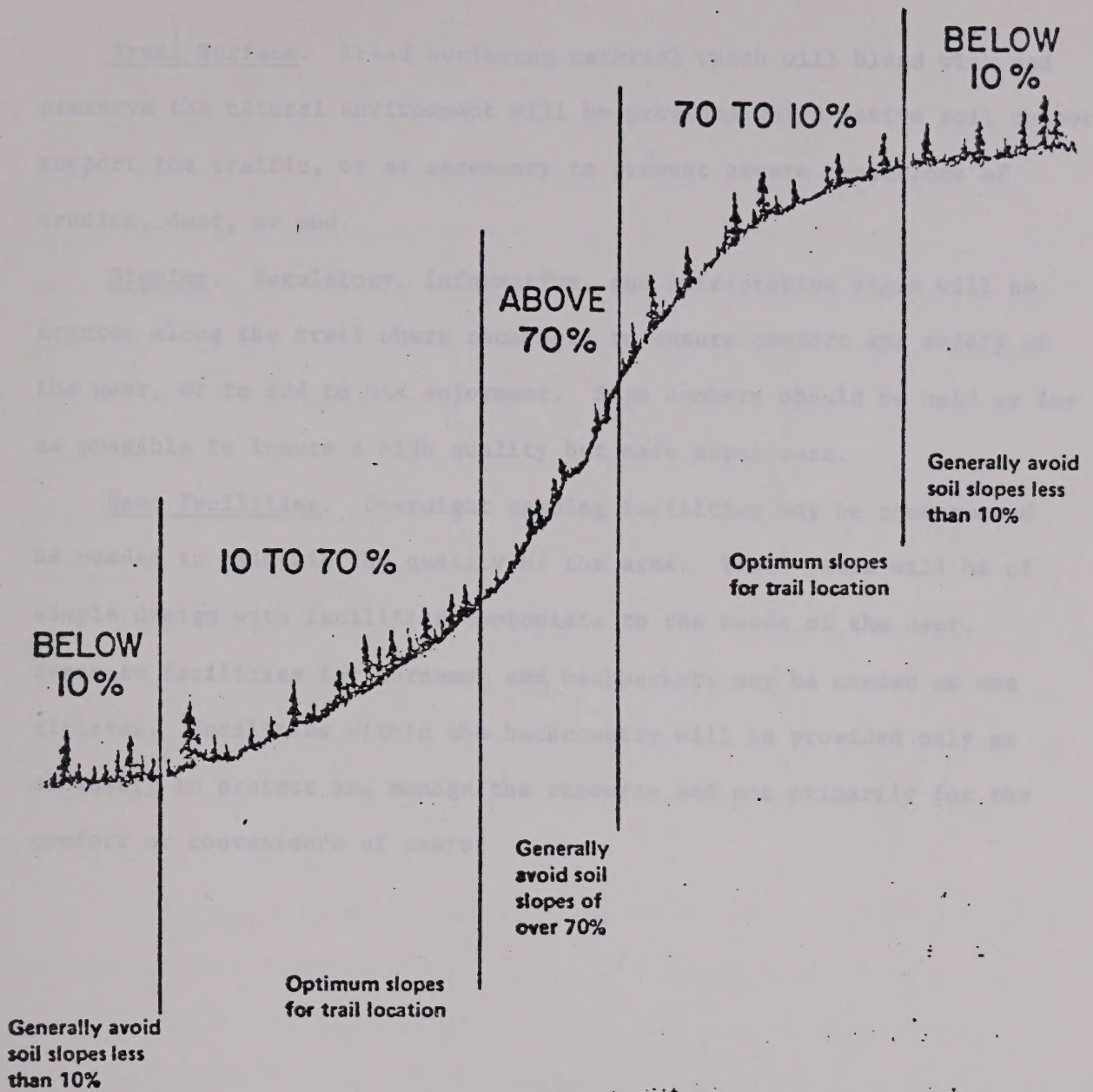
should be left with a natural appearance.

Drainage. Provide suitable drainage by maintaining the grade and

reshaping the surface, or by installing water bars. The metal of water

collectors or open rock drains to provide proper drainage when needed.

(See Appendix for examples of good and bad water bars.)



Trail Locations On Mountain Slopes

Trail Surface. Tread surfacing material which will blend with and preserve the natural environment will be provided where native soil cannot support the traffic, or as necessary to prevent severe conditions of erosion, dust, or mud.

Signing. Regulatory, informative, and interpretive signs will be erected along the trail where necessary to ensure comfort and safety of the user, or to add to his enjoyment. Sign numbers should be held as low as possible to insure a high quality but safe experience.

User Facilities. Overnight camping facilities may be constructed as needed to maintain the quality of the area. Trail camps will be of simple design with facilities appropriate to the needs of the user. Separate facilities for horsemen and backpackers may be needed as use dictates. Facilities within the backcountry will be provided only as necessary to protect and manage the resource and not primarily for the comfort or convenience of users.

Assumptions. To establish requirements for management of the trails

and the lands influenced by the trails, the following premises are basic:

1. The Pine Trail and Taylor Pass Trail, and the lands directly influenced by the trail, will be managed to provide life history opportunities for a wide variety of safe and pleasant outdoor experiences in an attractive environment. In the process, it will afford these opportunities to see and better understand the wide range of purposes which the lands serve and the uses to which they can appropriately be put, as well as the protection and management measures that make such uses of the land possible.

Management Criteria

Situation. The land form, trail location and density of vegetation along the trail allow only certain views. The trails, as well as the adjoining land viewed from the trail will be, in effect, a strip of land of irregular width winding through a variety of landscapes. The irregular width of this strip of land will be a function of the nature of the travel route, and of the character of the terrain and vegetation. Along the trail routes, a panorama of established and changing patterns of land use and management will unfold. This variety is part of the trails total public appeal and attraction.

The valuable watershed and timber resources along the trails are susceptible to damage from wildfire. Periodically both trails may need to be closed to public use because of high fire danger. This closure is intended to protect both the people and the watershed from the dangers and damages caused by fire.

Assumptions. To establish requirements for management of the trails and the lands influenced by the trails, the following premises are basic:

1. The Pine Trail and Baylor Pass Trail, and the lands directly influenced by the trail, will be managed to provide its users opportunities for a wide variety of safe and pleasant outdoor experiences in an attractive environment. In the process, it will afford them opportunities to see and better understand the wide range of purposes which the lands serve and the uses to which they can appropriately be put, as well as the protection and management measures that make such uses of the land possible.

Management Objectives

Objectives The land form, trail location and density of vegetation along the trail shall be controlled. The trail, as well as the adjacent land viewed from the trail will be, in effect, a strip of land of irregular width which will be a variety of landscapes. The character of this strip of land will be a function of the nature of the forest, and of the character of the terrain and vegetation. Along the trail, a program of established and changing systems of land use and management will unfold. This variety is part of the trail's scenic quality and attraction.

The scenic character and other resources along the trail are susceptible to damage from activities. Irresponsible use may lead to the closure of public use because of high fire danger. This closure is intended to protect both the people and the resources from the dangers and damage caused by fire.

Recommendations To establish requirements for management of the trail and the lands influenced by the trail, the following program and action plan is recommended. 1. The Pine Trail and Taylor Park Trail, and the lands directly influenced by the trail, will be managed to provide the user opportunities for a variety of safe and pleasant outdoor experiences in an attractive environment. It will afford some opportunities to see and better understand the wide range of purposes which the lands serve and the ways in which they can appropriately be put, as well as the protection and management programs that make such use of the land possible.

2. The existence of the trails in general will not dictate the management of the land it traverses. Rather, the management of the trails will reflect the management of the adjoining land. An example would be the poor maintenance of the trail and how the the users of the trail view this management practice. Over most of the land, management practices are now in harmony with the purpose of the trails. Only in very exceptional cases will it be desirable to modify management of the land to insure adequate protection of environmental and scenic values along the trail. Wildfires, litter, and lack of erosion control measures are causing damage to the surrounding environment. These are all examples of poor management practices which would need to be modified to protect the environment and scenic values along the trails.

Management Direction. The aim is to provide a continuous, high-quality trail for hikers and horsemen, including needed facilities for hikers and/or horse travel, that offers a wide variety of opportunities for outdoor experiences, permits safe travel, and allows public access to enjoy this facility and its surrounding environment.

General Requirements. The following general requirements apply to the entire length of both trails.

1. Prohibit the use of motorized vehicles on the established trails by the public.

2. Protect the trails and viewable environment through use of zoning, cooperative agreement, rights-of-way, or scenic easements for sufficient width to cover the land directly influenced by the trails.

3. Protect or enhance scenic views by providing features such as openings to better display an attractive view, or vegetative screening to reduce objectional views.

4. Stress public safety more than public convenience without destroying the challenge of the outdoor experience.
5. Avoid damage to attractive natural land forms, vegetation and ecosystem.
6. Minimize soil disturbance. In locations where man-made disturbance has occurred, including existing trail deterioration, backfill with earth or rock and stabilize with vegetation or provide other surface protection.
7. Identify areas of unstable soil and geology and avoid them or take appropriate protective measures. Monitor horse related use to ensure that no environment damage is taking place.
8. Require users of pack and saddle stock to control the animals, and, where appropriate for protecting watershed or vegetation, require a permit with adequate stipulations to protect the environment.
9. Prevent dangers to people, livestock, or wildlife from open mine shafts, tunnels, borrow-pits, or other hazards which might cause serious accidents.
10. Provide for public use of the trails through areas of high fire hazard. Assume safety through the use of construction and management techniques, the implementation of controls (such as prohibiting smoking), and the education of trail users as to the hazards of fire and its prevention. It may be necessary to close the trails to hikers and/or horses when extreme fire danger exists.
11. Where the trails are in proximity to features of historical or archaeological interest, make a thorough investigation and identify them so that they can be protected or removed prior to construction or visitor use.

12. Identify, protect, and interpret unusual historical, archaeological, geological, botanical, or scenic features along the trail.

13. Provide directional and informational signs in accordance with established standards.

14. Install and maintain drainage structures on the trail, or take other appropriate measures to protect trail and watershed values.

15. Plant trees on suitable sites within one year after removal or after the area is burned, unless experience shows satisfactory natural regeneration can be assumed within 3 to 5 years.

The need in the near future for supervision of the use upon both trails is very evident. A employee may need to be assigned on a as-needed basis to supervise the recreational use upon the trails. The employee would assure that all general and specific management criteria are being adhered to by the public. The employee's duties may involve several of the specific assignments discussed in the preceeding analysis. If additional facilities are developed, the impact may dictate that this supervision become a requirement for protection of the resources.

In addition to the above general requirements, the trails will be managed according to the BLM Manual, Titles 6254 concerning the operation of National Recreation Trails. The Organ Mountain Management Framework Plan has current management decisions which also provide guidelines. A management plan for the Organ Mountain Recreation Land has also been completed. All of these sources provide guidance to the manager of the resources and are consistent in the guidelines and objectives for the management of the Organ Mountain Recreation Lands.

12. Identify, protect, and interpret unusual historical, archaeological, geological, botanical, or scenic features along the trail.

13. Provide directional and informational signs in accordance with established standards.

14. Install and maintain drainage structures on the trail, or take other appropriate measures to protect trail and adjacent values.

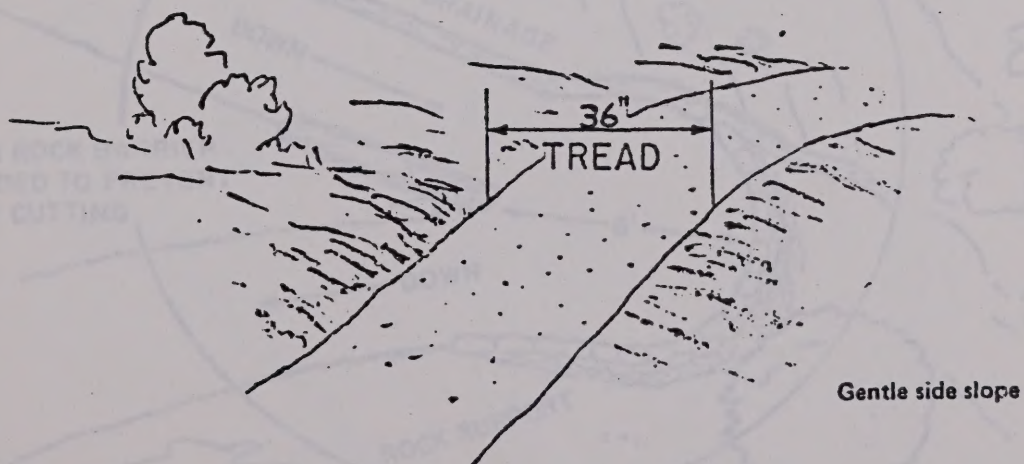
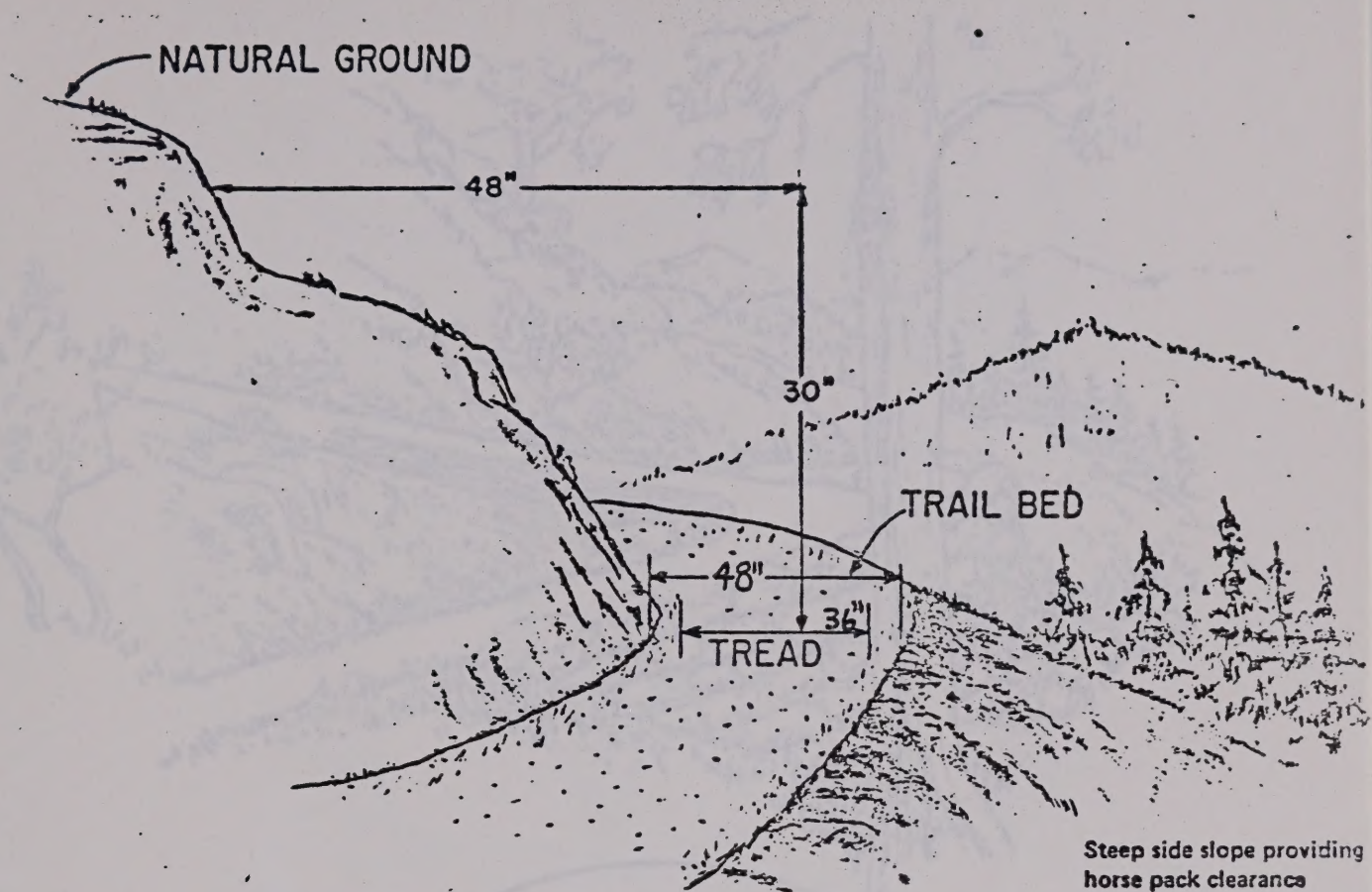
15. Plant trees on suitable sites within one year after removal or after the area is burned, unless experience shows satisfactory natural regeneration can be assumed within 5 to 7 years.

The need in the near future for supervision of the use upon both trails is very evident. A employee may need to be assigned on a part-time basis to supervise the recreational use upon the trails. The employee would assume that all general and specific management matters are being addressed to the public. The employee's duties may involve several of the specific assignments discussed in the preceding analysis. It is anticipated that later on developed, the report may discuss that this organization has a responsibility for protection of the resources.

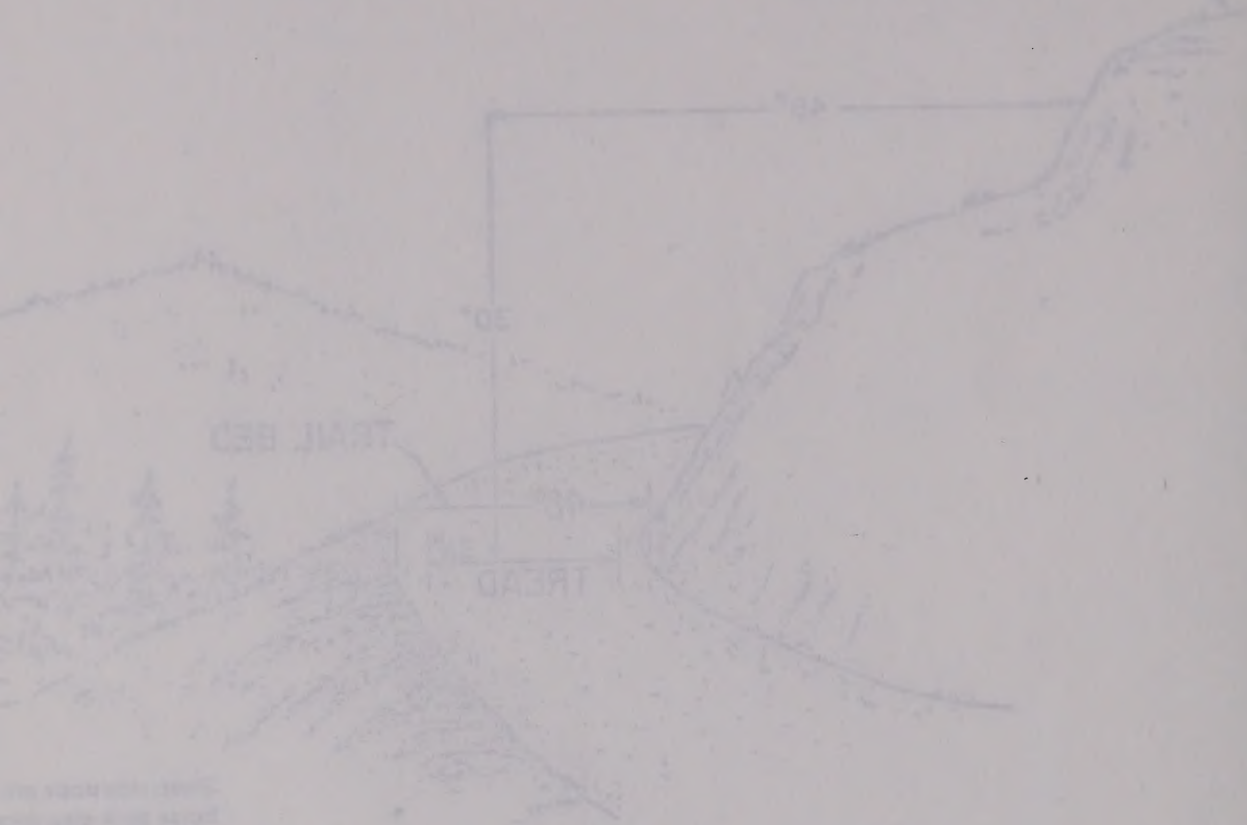
In addition to the above general responsibilities, the trails will be managed according to the BLM Manual, Title 515 concerning the operation of National Recreation Trails. The Organ Mountain Management Framework Plan has current management decisions which also provide guidelines. A management plan for the Organ Mountain Recreation Area has also been developed. All of these sources provide guidance to the manager of the resources and are consistent in the guidelines and objectives for the management of the Organ Mountain Recreation Area.



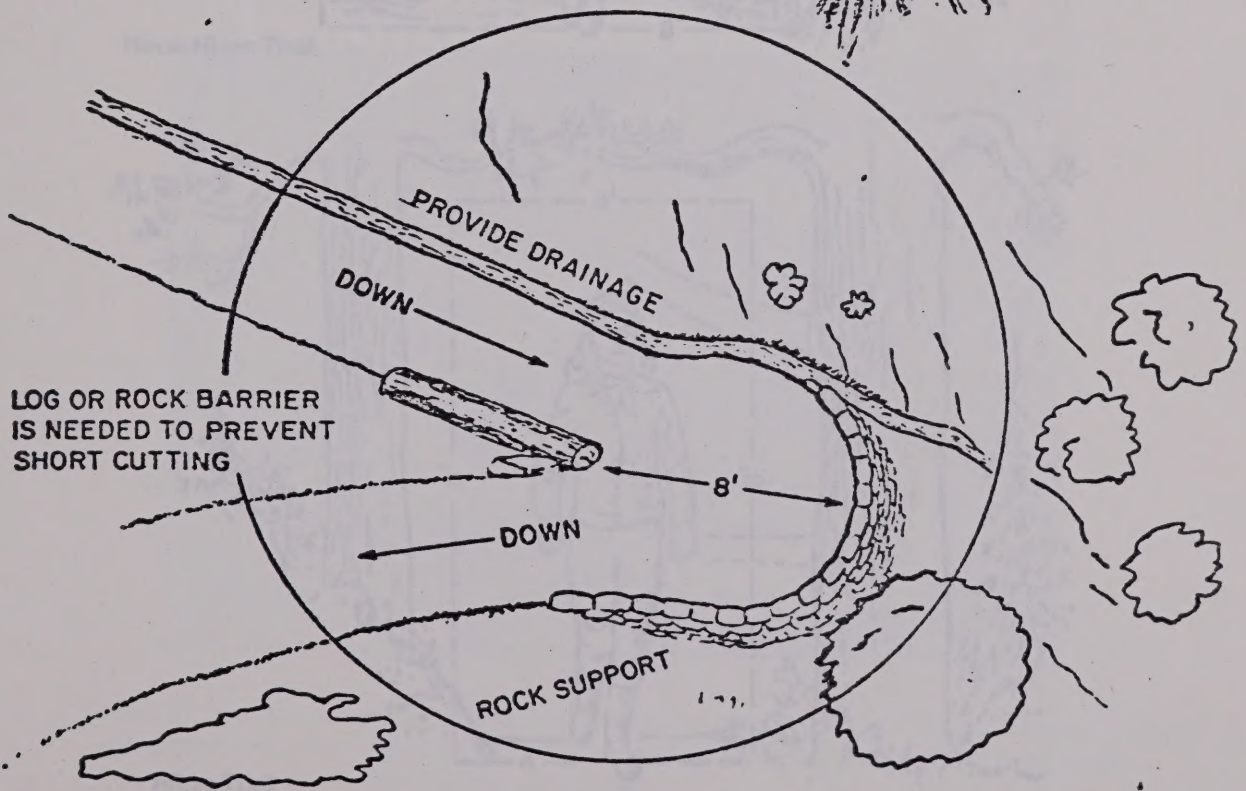
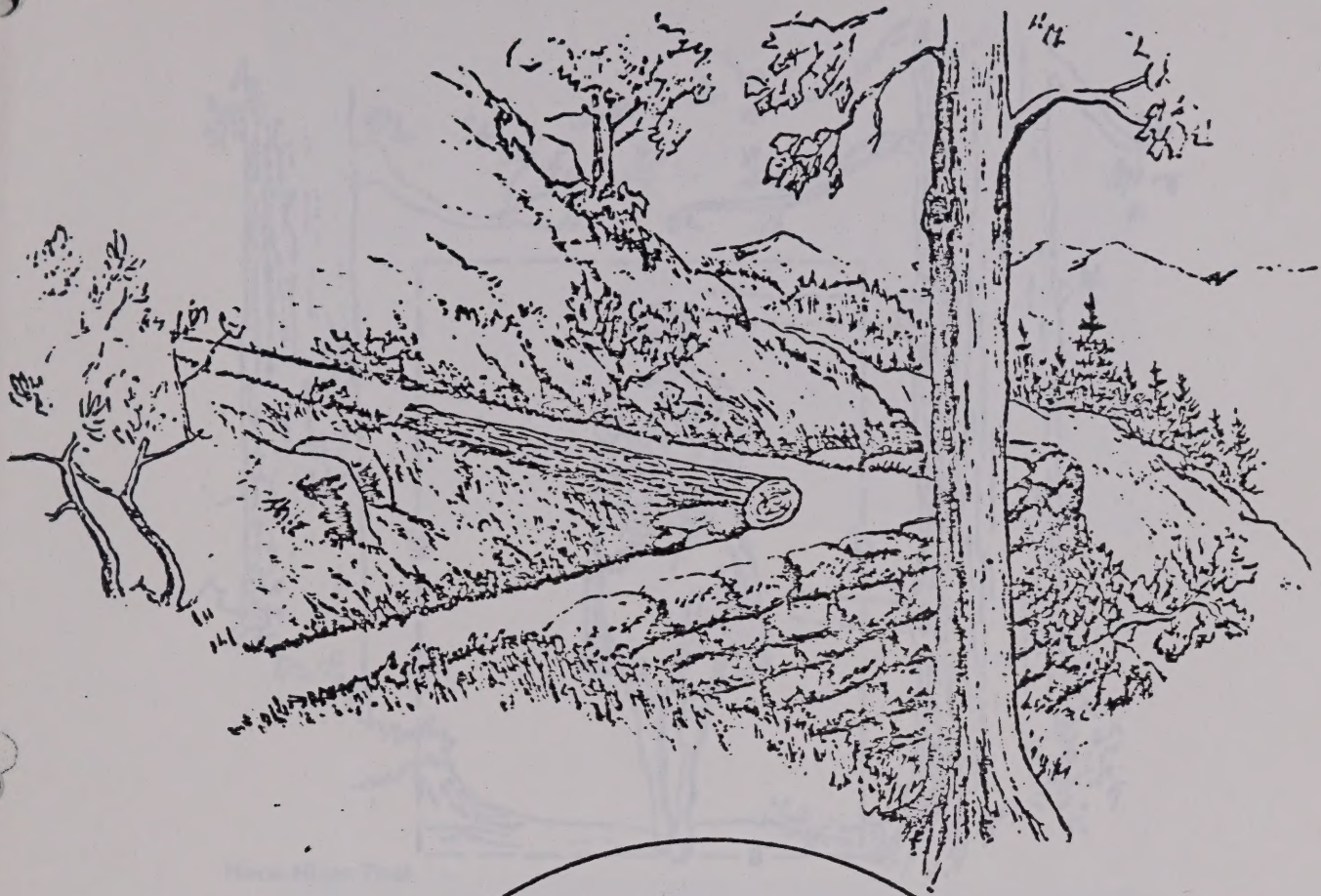
TYPICAL TRAIL SECTIONS



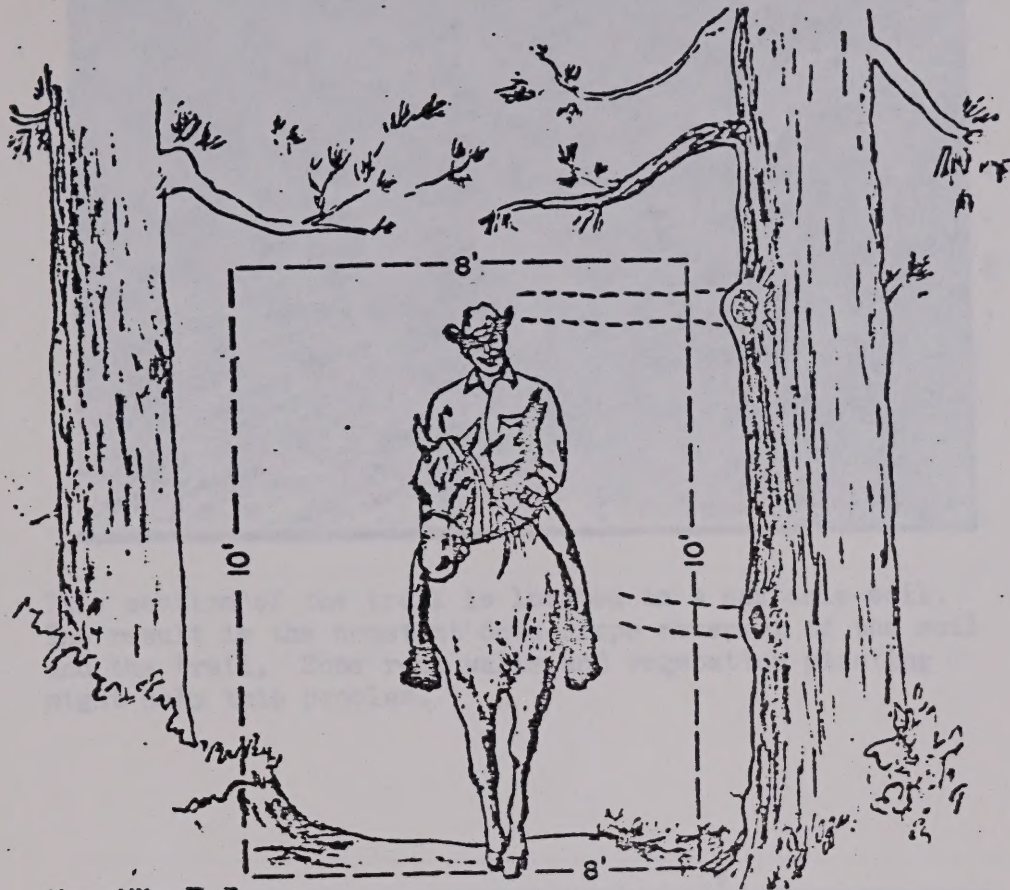
NATURAL GROUND



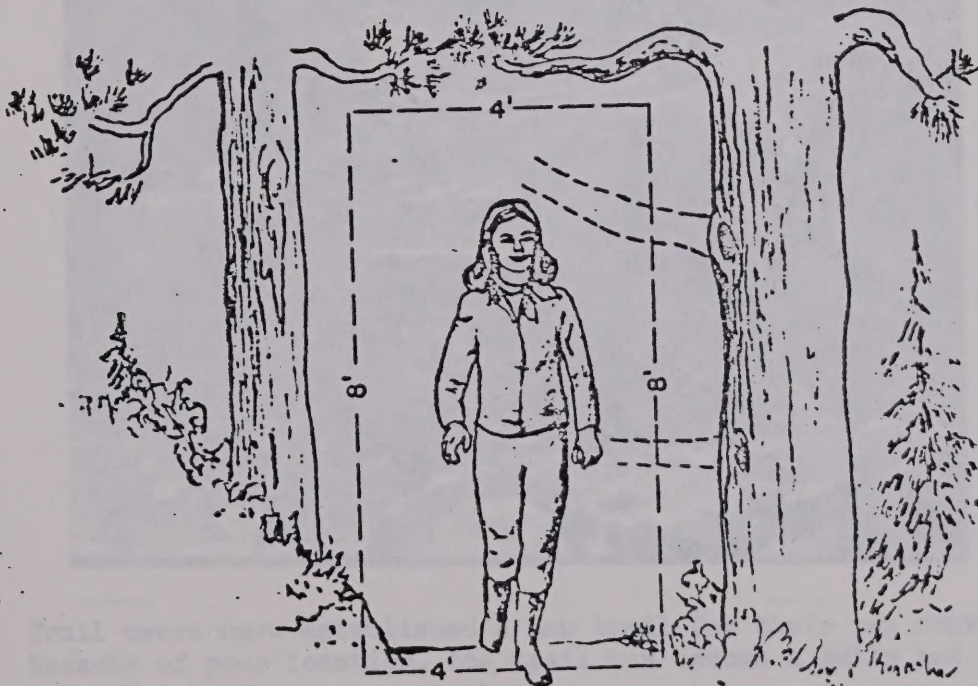
DETAILS OF SWITCHBACKS



TRAVELWAY CLEARING



Horse-Hiker Trail



Hiker Trail

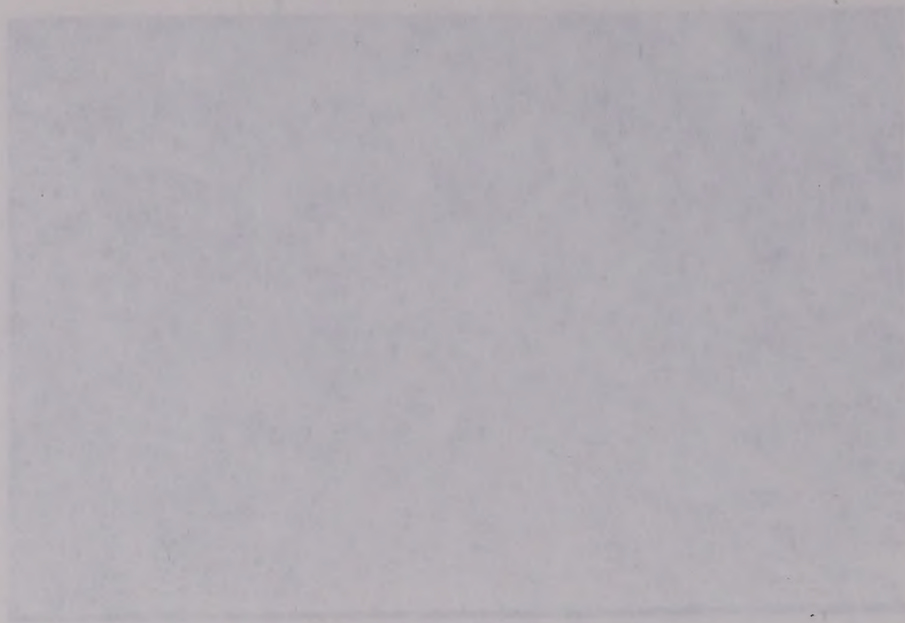




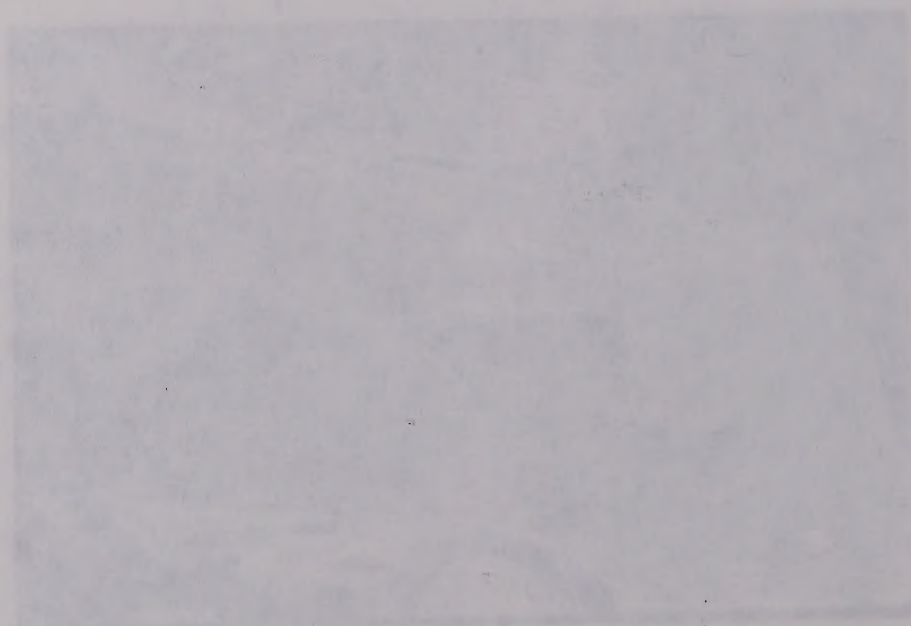
This section of the trail is located in a unstable soil. The result is the constant down-slope movement of the soil and the trail. Some rock walls and vegetation planting might help this problem.



Trail users have established a new trail for their own convenience. Because of poor location, the trail has become a gully and has created more maintenance problems.



This section of the wall is broken in a number of places.
The wall is the same as the wall of the wall.
and the wall. Some of the wall is broken in a number of places.
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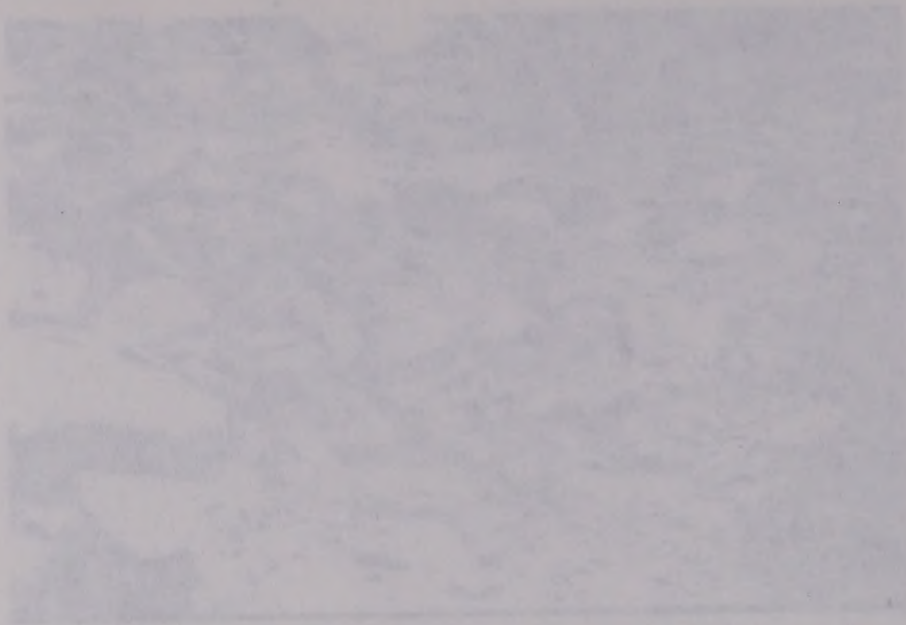
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This portion of the trail is located in a stream bed that is usually dry. When water does flow it is quite often with a great amount of force and does considerable damage to the trail.

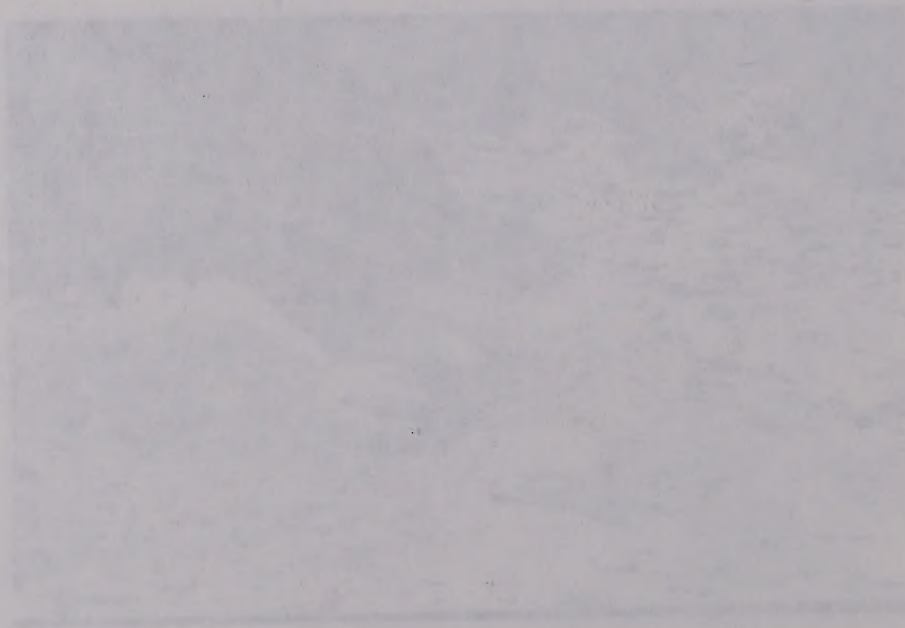


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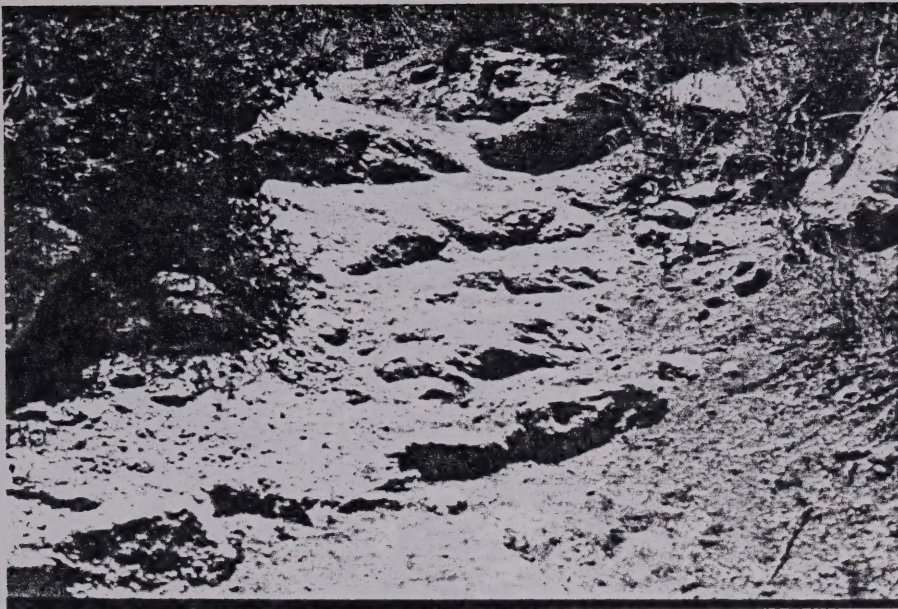
Located in the same area as the above picture, this section of the trail causes mass confusion to the visitors using the trail.



This section of the wall is located in a stream bed that is usually dry. When water flows it is quite noisy with a great amount of foam and some considerable damage to the wall.



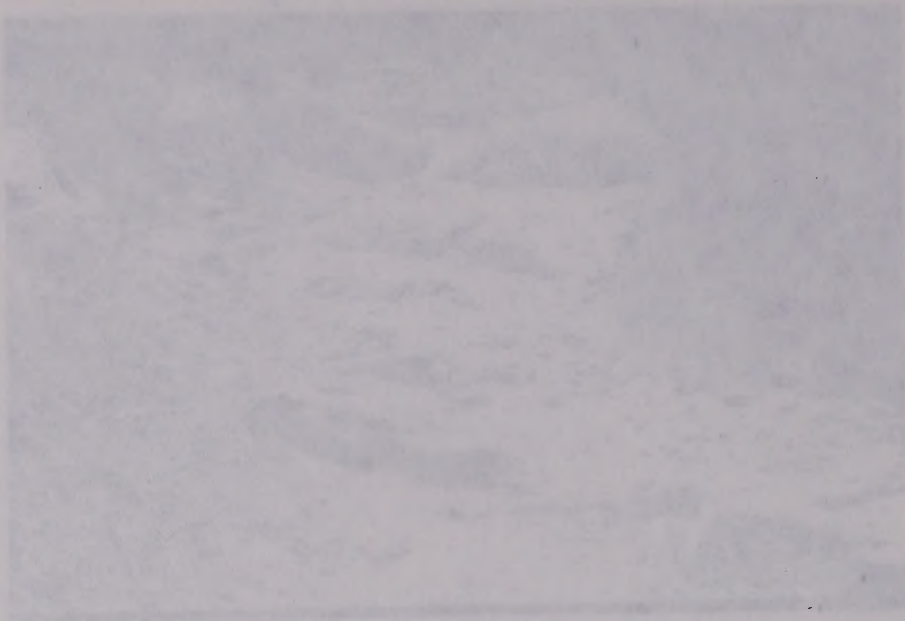
Located in the same area as the above picture, this section of the wall shows some damage to the structure along the wall.



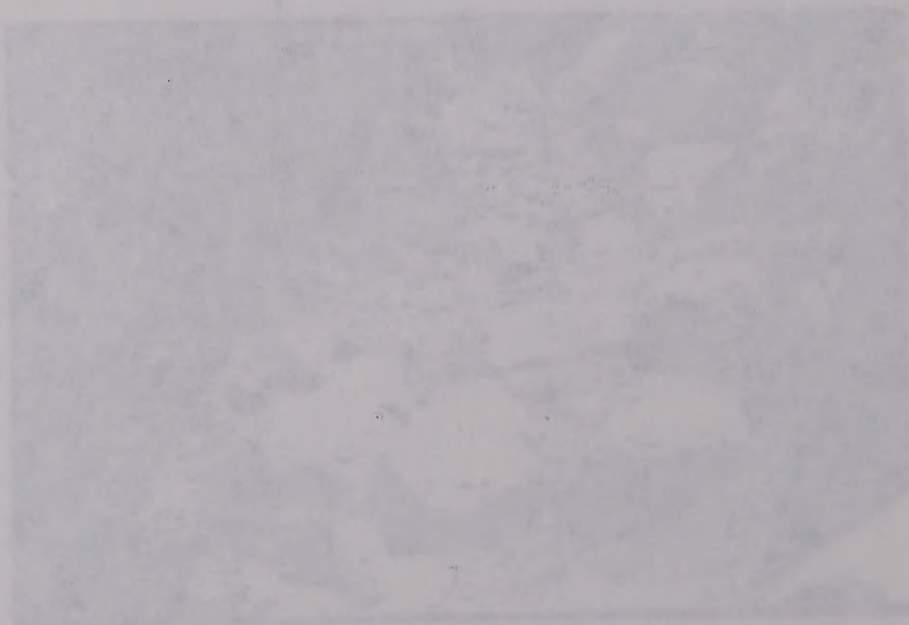
These steps may be allowable on a trail only to be used by hikers but the same area would require a different treatment on a trail used by horses.



This portion of the trail would require a major rebuilding in order to prevent the above situation from continuing to erode away the landscape.



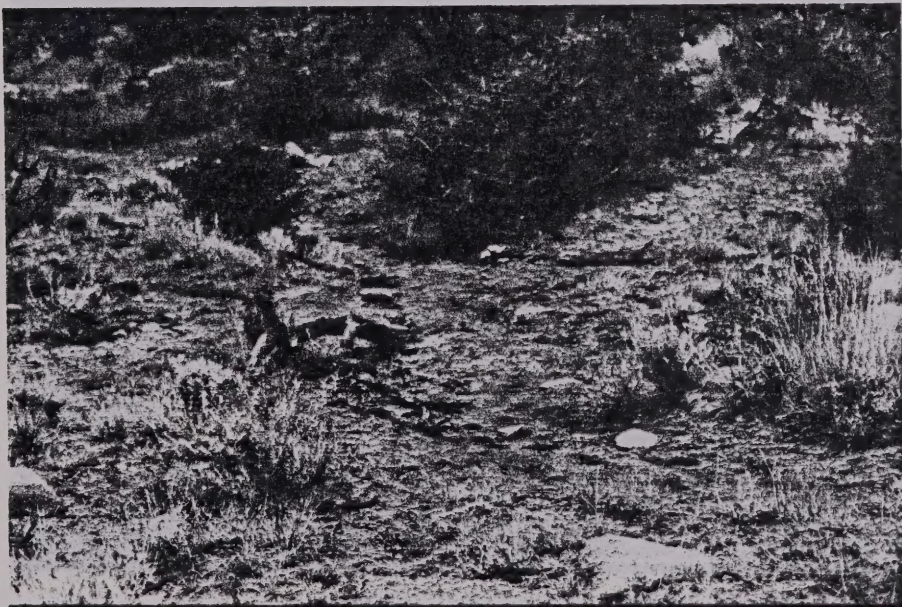
These marks may be difficult to see with only the light of the day, but the marks are visible in a different position on a wall used by anyone.



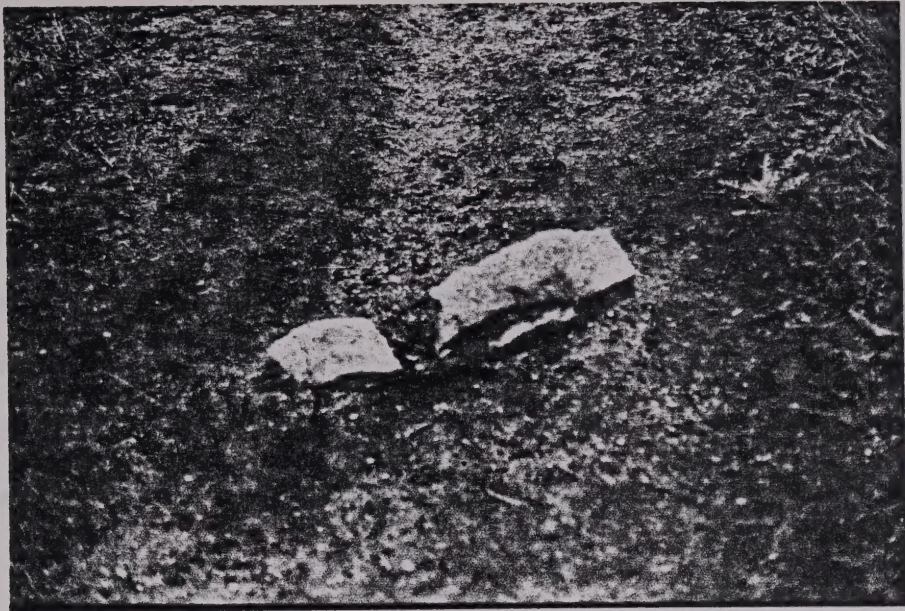
This picture of the wall would require a better understanding in order to prevent the above situation from occurring to some part of the landscape.



Even though water-bars were provided, a poor location will cause the trail to become a stream during heavy rainfall.

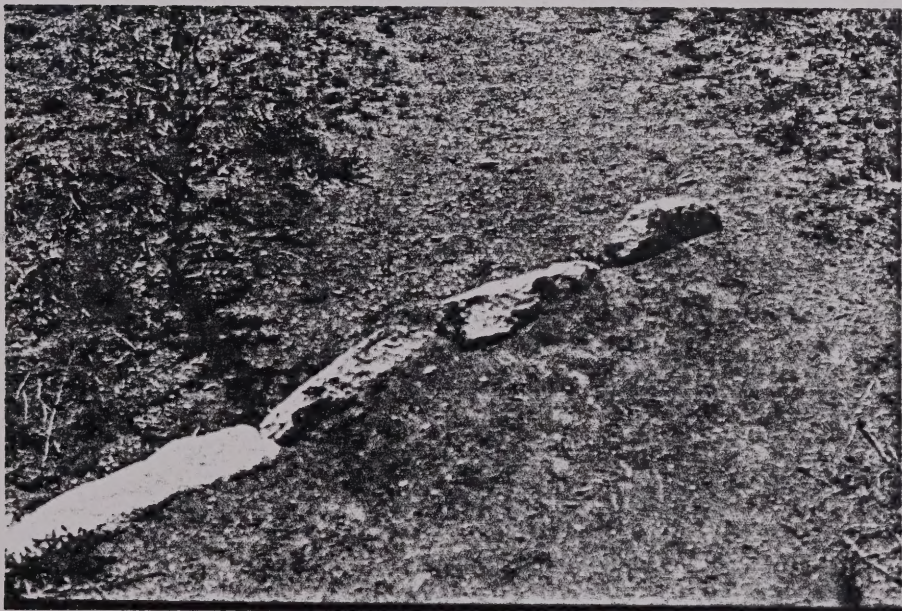


The effect of cross-cutting the trail is clearly shown. Erosion, visitor confusion, and vegetation destruction are the major damage suffered.



JUL • 75

A poorly placed water-bar will wash out and become a hazard to users of the trail.



JUL • 75

This rock water-bar was placed too high out of the ground so it has now become an obstacle to walk around. Now that the trail has become wider it provides a new area for the water to flow.

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4. The Pacific Crest Trail - Guide for Location, Design, and Management
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2. BLM Manual 6000, National Protection Lands Management.
3. Taylor, T. and T. L. Taylor - "Federal Lands Management."
4. "Public Lands Management - A Guide for Federal, State, and Local Governments."
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